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## OCWM Sunday Sept 18



### OCWM Continuing Testament, Extravagant Welcome, Changing Lives!

Long ago, I was talking to the chair of a mission committee, who proudly said to me, "Our church gives to mission; we don't support bureaucracy, so we don't give to OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission)." She was reflecting what I have experienced as a local church pastor sitting with a finance committee as it takes a long look at the annual budget, and the comment is made that, "Well, we can cut OCWM another \$3,000, that won't hurt us." In both of those misperceptions, what is lost is that OCWM is not "just out there," OCWM is who we are. The Southeast Conference has called for churches to celebrate OCWM Sunday on September 18<sup>th</sup>, to help us all understand that OCWM is about us not a "them" outside our walls.

To help you prepare for this, we have developed a Southeast Conference brochure for you to use as a bulletin insert or attached to your newsletter, or as a handout. [Link here](#). If you need copies from the conference, please contact [GerriGerri](#), and request them letting us know how many copies you would like. There are wonderful resources in addition to the brochure on the UCC website, including a PowerPoint at <http://www.ucc.org/ocwm/pics-and-pdfs/OCWM-Powerpoint-PDF.pdf>. There is a video at <http://www.ucc.org/ocwm/>, which you can show in worship, or at an adult education event. There are other materials at this same site that you can download and use.



We want you to use September 18<sup>th</sup>, or a date of your choosing to educate the whole church about how OCWM connects you with mission around the world and equips ministry in the conference to be present to you and others as local churches. Staff and Board members will be available to bring a mission moment about OCWM to you in worship, on the 18<sup>th</sup> or on the Sunday, you choose. [Contact Tim Downs](#) [Contact Tim Downs](#) to schedule a visitor.

I often hear the question, "OCWM, what's in it for me?" It is OCWM that brings you support for your search for a new pastor, or makes possible church school curricula, the support of staff and your church in conflict or transition, the TAP (Theology Among the People) program to equip your lay ministries, opportunities for work camps to serve others in need, involvement in global ministries, and much more. Perhaps the most touching testimony to the impact of OCWM was made by Gary Myers, pastor of Trinity Congregational UCC, Athens, AL, at our annual meeting. He stood up to announce that within a day of the tornadoes that swept through the communities and destroyed the homes of his members, the Southeast Conference was there, with support, financial, spiritual and otherwise. He added, "Never

# OCWM

## BASIC SUPPORT /10

doubt how important your giving is to you, and to all of us together to be a strong and missional church in the name of Jesus Christ. OCWM; it changes lives, not only the lives of others, but our lives as well."

The Southeast Conference has encouraged its congregations over the last decade to be Covenant Keeping churches, or give 10% or more of their operating budget to OCWM Basic Support. We are proud that 16% or 8 of our churches have met that goal, and that another 15 of our churches are giving 5% or more as they work to increase toward being Covenant Keepers. Even with this faithful giving for which we are very grateful, the support of our local churches amounts to only about one half of what is needed to equip the ministries that equip them. [Here is a link to listing](#) of all the churches in the conference and their giving to OCWM. Look up your congregation!

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